Abnormal pricing practice by Bt. seed companies

1190. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received on behalf of farming community against the abnormal pricing practice by Bt. Seed companies;

(b) if so, whether any action has been initiated against the companies;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Some complaints have been received from Andhra Pradesh about the exorbitant trait value being charged by Bt. Seed companies. Government of Andhra Pradesh has also initiated proceedings before monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission in this regard.

(b) to (d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has taken the view that it will be appropriate to wait for the outcome of judicial process as the matter is subjudice before the MRTP Commission.

Work plan of India-US knowledge initiative

1191. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed work plan of India-US Knowledge Initiative on AGRICULTURE, Agricultural Education, Research and Commercial Linkage;

(b) whether the Knowledge Initiative focuses on introduction of GMO's and irradiated food in India at a time when the world is recognizing the productivity and ecological sustainability of small farmer; and

(c) how much India will be benefited by adopting sustainable and hazardous technology through the US-India Agricultural Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The work plan includes joint research, training, workshops, visits relating to four priority areas of focusing on (a) education, learning resources, curriculum development and training and building human and institutional capacity (cross cutting), (b) training, capacity building and joint research on food processing, by product utilization and bio-fuels, (c) biotechnology covering development of transgenic crops resistant to important viruses, tolerance to drought, heat and salinity, molecular breeding and genomics in crops and animals, molecular approaches in plants and animal health protection and (d) water management, research and training.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The main benefits of partnership include building human and institutional capacity for enhancing research capabilities in niche/cutting edge areas for developing technologies relevant to national, regional and global needs.

Decrease in milch cattle

†1192. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of milching animals is decreasing swiftly in the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have made any review of losses caused to economy due to reduction in livestock;

(d) whether the livestock is being stealthily exported from the country to Bangladesh, etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of milching animals is increasing over the years. The population of milch animals (which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.